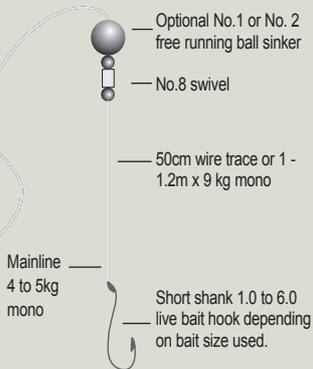


DUSKY FLATHEAD

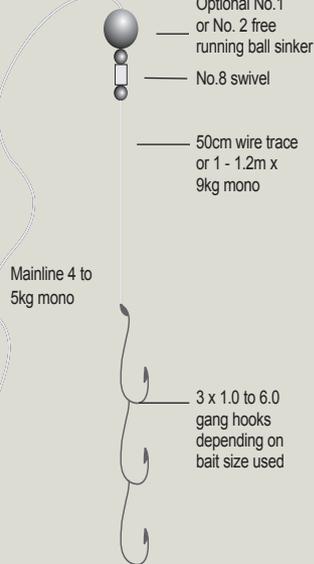


“Excellent eating quality with solid fighting ability... especially when lures are put into action”

LIVE BAIT RIG

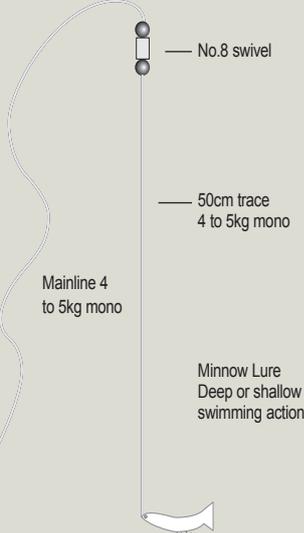


BLUE PILCHARD RIG



BAIT: Small Live Poddy Mullet, Fresh Fish Strips, White & Blue Pilchards, Yabbies

LURE RIG



Although they appear to favour gravel, silt and ribbon weed bottoms, rest assured that good catches have also been made in areas with sandy bottoms. You will locate them along drop offs and banks in the bays and estuaries and around mangroves.

Flathead move from the drop offs and deeper water up onto the banks with the incoming tide and vice versa on the outgoing tide. Poddy mullet, blue and white pilchards, yabbies and fresh fish strips are all choice baits while a small minnow with deep or shallow swimming action is the favoured lure. Reputedly growing to a weight of 16kg approx. it is best to expect them between 750g and 1.25kg. Start bragging if you land a 4kg flathead.

Winds from the south, south-east and south-west up to ten knots make for ideal conditions. While cloudy and overcast skies are preferred, do not rule out clear or wet conditions. At their finest between October and April, either fish at anchor or drift fish the last two hours of the run out and the first three hours of the run in tides in the early morning or late evening when tides allow.

RODS, REELS AND RIGS

Use a medium to fast taper boat rod to three metres combined with either a 125mm or 150mm side cast reel or a medium size egg-beater reel capable of 130m of 4 to 5kg mono.

THE METHOD

1. Drift fish with bait approx. 10m behind your dinghy. Strike when extra weight or tension is detected on your line. Invariably when drifting your hook will catch on weed. This will have the effect of placing more tension on your line. More often than not the hook will pull loose. Experience will teach you the difference between weed and fish.

2. Anchor your dinghy on submerged sand banks approx. 6m in from drop offs. Cast onto the bank in the same direction that the current is flowing from. Allow the current to wash the bait into the drop off and around in front of you forming a half circle. Either let bait sit or repeat action.

3. Lures - Preferably use an egg-beater reel. Cast out and about your selected spot and retrieve at varying speeds. Repeat action. For full on sports action nothing can compete with lures when a dusky has been



Select hook to match with bait size used. When using white pilchards hook three or four through the eyes on a single hook.



Sharp barbs are located on the gill covers of a Dusky. It is advisable that you use a thick cloth when handling. Place cloth over body and grip firmly.

Avoid lifting a Dusky's head out of the water until gaffed or inside a landing net.

DUSKY FLATHEAD

hooked. Striking with sudden vengeance they will often launch themselves out of the water violently tossing back and forth in a desperate attempt to dislodge the lure. Slack line must not be allowed after hook up has been made. Keeping a tight line reduces the chance of the lure losing grip. Sometimes when a bait is stationary, a flathead will take the bait and lie “doggo” without giving the slightest hint that it’s been hooked. You end up getting a pleasant surprise when you retrieve the line. Yes siree, they’ll try to con you, just like a politician before election day.

incoming tides only around the open bars and seaways in our area. All have had and remain capable of major mishaps. Remain alert and keep your wits about you when travelling close to or fishing these areas.

The locations given throughout this publication on where to catch fish have all proven to be successful. However, the main purpose of the given locations is for the angler to gain an understanding of the type of environment different species feed in and frequent in regards to deep holes, drop offs, sand banks, gravel bottoms, gutters and suck outs etc.

The idea is to store this information to assist you in locating fish in other areas with similar features.

WHERE TO CATCH DUSKY FLATHEAD

Refer to Estuary maps.

DUSKY FLATHEAD = F

For safety reasons it is recommended to fish the

Tucka Time!



Flathead In Cider With Mussels

Ingredients

500g cleaned, skinned flathead

1½ kg small scrubbed mussels

300ml dry cider

1 large onion finely sliced

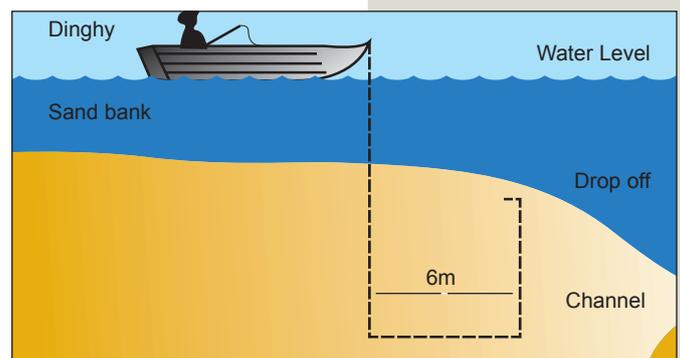
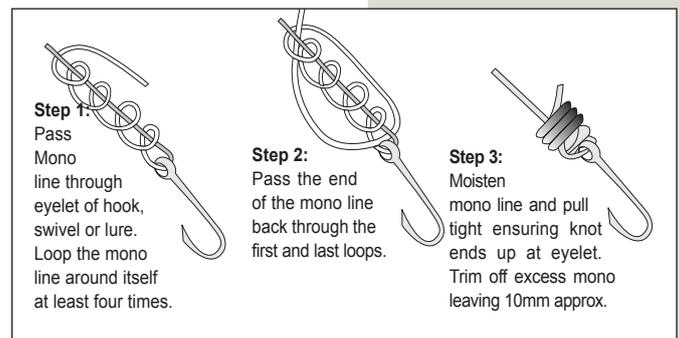
15g parsley and lemon zest butter

15g butter

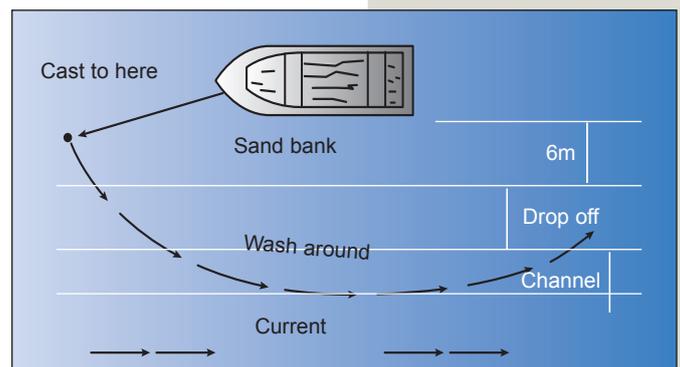
salt & cracked pepper

Method

Cook mussels in cider until open. Gently simmer onions in butter. Place onion mixture in long shallow ovenproof glass dish. Place flathead on top, strain cider/mussel stock over fish until barely covered. Cover dish and place in oven preheated to 180 degrees for approx. 15 minutes. Surround flathead with shelled mussels. Top with parsley and lemon zest butter. Glaze under the grill and add salt and pepper to taste.



SIDE VIEW



AERIAL VIEW